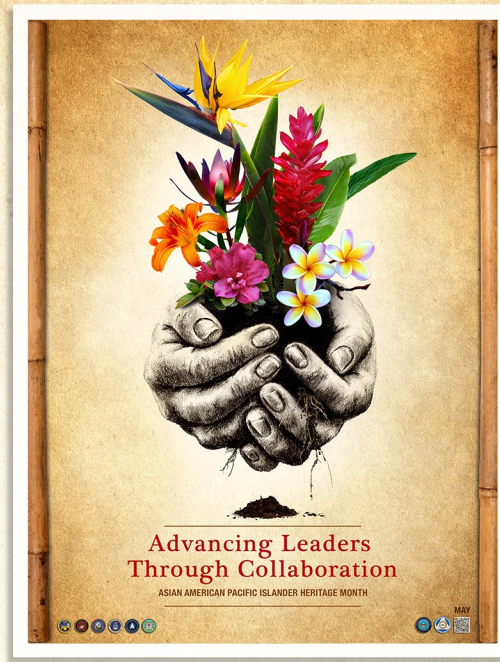


**CULTURAL
AWARENESS**



OBSERVANCE

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month



FACTS

The rich heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders spans the world and the depths of America's history.

Generation after generation, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have established a proud legacy that reflects the spirit of our Nation—a country that values the contributions of everyone—who call America home.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders communities consist of approximately 50 ethnic groups speaking over 100 languages, with connections to Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Hawaiian, and other Asian and Pacific Islander ancestries.

During Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Department of Defense (DoD) celebrates the accomplishments of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) to both the Nation and the DoD mission.

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Week.

May was chosen to commemorate two milestones in Asian/Pacific American history which occurred in the month: the first known Japanese immigrant's arrival to the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 — which was built by over 20,000 Chinese workers.

In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a month.

The estimated number of Asian alone-or-in-combination residents in the United States in 2019 was 22.9 million. Additionally, the estimated number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination residents of the United States was 1.6 million.

As we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we pay tribute to all the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have strived and fought for a brighter future for the next generation of leaders.